When we discuss the Bill, we could discuss the merit of the Bill and I am sure Mr. Chavan, at that point of time, will cooperate The question is:

> "That leave be granted to intorudce
> a Bill to amend the Delhi Rent Act,[v]1995."

The motion was adopted.

DR. U. VENKATESWARLU: Madam, I introduce the Bill.

श्री सोमपाल : महोदया, इसमें भी संशोधन आयेंगे। पहले भी हमने यह देखा है कि दोनों सदनों ने इसको पास किया। उसके बाद भी इसमें ये संशोधन लाने पड़ रहे है। मेरा आपसे और सारे सदन से निवेदन है कि इसको स्थायी समिति को संदर्भित किया जाए। नही तो फिर दुबारा ऐसी चीजें होंगी कि दोनों सदनों में इस पर पूरा विचार न हो और दुबारा फिर इस बिल को यहां लाना पड़े। इसलिए मेरा निवेदन है कि आप इस पर विचार करें।

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I will see to it ....*(Interruptions)*.... O.K., now let us go ahead ....*(Interruptions)*....

SHRI SATISH AGARWAL (Rajasthan): He has quoted one precedent of 1987. Kindly make it clear that this will not be a precedent for future to be quoted in such circumstances. Let it be made clear from the Chair.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: First I will have to examine as to what happened to that Bill. What was the reason? Why had the Bill to be brought back to the House? I do not know. After that we will see whether or not it had to go to the Committee.

So, this is a technical matter. Now, we have got the Zero Hour.

RE. TRAIN ACCIDENT AT OLD FARIDABAD RAILWAY STATION

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI (Kerala): I did not know that the Bill was coming in between. It is a very important matter. Of course, it may not be important these days since it has become a regular occurence. So, it has lost its importance.

....*(Interruptions)*....

Train accidents have become a regular feature.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Before that, before I ask you to make a mention of this I would like to inform the House that I have received a letter from Shri Ram Vilas Paswan, the Minister of Railways saying that he is proceeding to the site of the accident at Faridabad. He has asked for permission to make a *suo motu* statement in the House today, i.e. 28th July 1997, after lunch on his return from the site of the accident, regarding the collision between the Karnataka Express and the Himsagar Express which took place last night at Faridabad.

Therefore, the Railway Minister is going to make a statement on this. However, you can make a mention of it now..... *(Interruptions)*....

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Madam, every day accidents are taking place. But the Minister has time only for politicking. If he cannot run the Ministry let him get out. People are dying every day. During the last month, Madam a number of major derailments have taken place in Kerala. As passengers travelling in Kerala, we know about it. These accidents have become a regular feature now. Every day, people are dying. But the Minister seems to have no time to look into this. He has time only for politicking. He could be a Minister for Politicking. Why did you make him the Minister of Railways?

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Vayalar Ravi all Indians are travelling in trains. Not only the peopl of Kerala.

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: He has no time for his Ministry. He has time only for politicking. Everytime when an accident takes place, he announces an *ex gratia* of Rs. one lakh- But Madam can we purchase a human life for Rs. one lakh? This is the most irresponsible way

of functioning. Poeple are dying because of manual failures. I wonder what is happening to the Ministry of Railways! What is the Railway Minister doing? he should look into it. This is a very serious thing. People are dying every day. ... *.(Interruptions)....*

SHRI SATISH AGARWAL (Rajasthan): In the same way as the proprietors of the Upahar Cinema have been held responsible, the Minister should also be held responsible for this accident. He should resign on that count.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: He is coming to made a statement.

SHRI SATISH AGARWAL: If the Uphar Cinema proprietors could be arrested for the tragedy which took place there, why not Mr. Ram Vilas Paswan also? *(Interruptions)*

SHRI SURINDER KUMAR SINGLA (Punjab): Madam, my time is being taken.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Nobody is taking your time. You are only supposed to make a mention of it. I can assure the House that when the Minister comes here and makes a statement, you can ask him whatever you like. At the moment you can just express your anguish over the loss of like in this accident and pay your respects to the departed souls.

Now, Shri Surinder Kumar Singla, please.

SHRI SURINDER KUMAR SINGLA: Madam, the accident which took place last night at Faridabad is not the first one to occur in this month. There have been four accidents so far during this month. There was an accident on 2nd July involving the Ghaziabad-Tundla train. Then, on 5th July, there was another accident in the Kanpur-Delhi section. Six people were killed. Then, we had the bomb blast in the train at Bhatinda. On the top of this, we have this accident last night.

During Mr. Ram Vilas Paswan's term as Railway Minister, So, far, more than 70 accidents have taken place. Many accidents have taken place on major routes. He writes .a letter to the Chief Minister, to the Chief Secretary, of a State, saying that the accident is because of sabotage. The worst railway accident took place at Patna. He says that it is due to sabotage, but the State Government says that it is not due to sabotage.

As has been mentioned by my colleague, Mr. Vayalar Ravi, eversince he became the Railway Minister, accident after accident is taking place. We have seen the functioning of the Railways at its worst only during his regime. Madam, the United Front train is also racking. *(Interruption)* He is the driver of this train. I do not know where he would lead it to.

Madam, through this House, I demand his resignation. When accidents are taking place so frequently, when more than seventy accidents have taken place so far during his regime, what is he doing? He is not attending to these things. On the other hand, he is passing on the buck evcrytime to the Ministry of Steel, saying that the Steel Ministry is not supplying the right kind of steel. This is because there are some people in the Railway Ministry who want to import steel. It is really the lobby which wants to import steel from abroad which is floating this kind of an argument, saying that the Steel Ministry is not providing the right kind of steel and that is why these accidents are taking place.

My point is, let him make a statement and apologise for what has happened.

SHRI SATISH AGARWAL: Not just apologise. He should resign.

SHRI SURINDER KUMAR SINGLA: I am asking him not only to apologise, but also...

SHRI SATISH AGARWAL: When the proprietors of the Upahar Cinema could be arrested for the fire tragedy which took place inside their theatre, why

should not the Railway Minister be also taken to task?

SHRI SURINDER KUMAR SINGLA: If the House wants to ask for his arrest for this accident, let that happen.

But he must be answerable to the House and to the countrymen. The worst train accident has occurred in his time, but he has not attended to it. Thank you.

श्रीमती उर्मिला चिमनभाई पटेल (गुजरात) **:** महोदया **...(व्यवधान)...**

उपसभापति : नही नही, उनका नाम नही पुकारा था । वगैर नाम पुकारे बोल दिए ।

श्री त्रिलोकी तथा चतुर्वेदी (उत्तर प्रदेश) **:** उसकी भी कोई सैक्टिरी नही है ।

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The problem is that it is a serious matter. People have died.

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: The Him-sagar Express is coming all the way from Kanyakumari, travelling all the way from Kerala, and going to Kashmir. The Karnataka Express comes from Bangalore. What has happened here is very-very surprising. We cannot imagine it. Two bogies are stationed there. The Himsagar Express has gone with the rest of the bogies. Two bogies have been automatically detatched, and they are standing on the line. The Karnataka Express hits them. I do not know what is happening in the railways. My friend was quoting the statistcs. I do not want to go into them, people like me and Rajagopal travel by trains for going to Kerala and returning from there. There were three derailments in one month. Once we had to walk down and get into a taxi to reach our places. There is no responsibility. Nobody is taking any responsibility. Nobody is looking after the this Ministry. This is worrying me.

The Minister may announce Rs. 1 lakh. You cannot purchase a life for Rs. 1 lakh. It is his responsibility as the Minister to look into the functioning of the Railways. The efficiency of the Railways has to be maintained. There is not effi-

ciency at all. There is not value for life. The Ministry is being run completely by ignorant people, inefficient people and lazy people. There is no Minister to monitor what is happening everyday. We feel that the time has come for him to quit and say, "Thank you very much" to the people. Otherwise, this man will have to answer for hundreds of lives of people travelling in trains.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: "Thank you" or "sorry" to the people?

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Sorry in the sense that the families living in Karnataka and Kerala cannot see the dead bodies. They do not know what is happening. So, the affairs of this kind on the railways are very very bad. I do not want to use harsh words. But, basically, he has proved to be very good at politicking but very very inefficient as Minister who can only kill people on the railways. So, it is better for him to leave at the earliest.

Thank you, Madam.

श्री शिव चरण सिंह (राजस्थान) **:** महोदया, कल रात को जो रेल का एक्सीडेंट हुआ जिसमें कर्नाटक एक्सप्रेस और हिमसागर एक्सप्रेस आपस में टकरायी है, अखबारों में जो खबर आई है उनके अंदाज से कहीं अधिक कई गुना लोग मारे गए हय । घायलों की संख्या का अभी तक पता नही है और महोदया आप अंदाज कीजिए कि दिन में दो बार रेलवे के उदघाटन होते है । लेकिन रेलवे की इफीशियंसी देखिए कि एक्सीडेंटस होते रहते है । हर महीने एक्सीडेंटस होते चले जा रहे है । चार का औसत तो है ही । लेकिन उदघाटन की रफ्तार तो उनकी कई गुना है । रेलवे में इफीशियंसी लाना बहुत जरूरी है । हमारे देश में रेलों का जो जाल है वह अंग्रेजों के जमाने का है । आज दुनिया के मुकाबले में, यूरोप और जापान के मुकाबले में रेलवे में हमने तरक्की नही की है । लेकिन एक्सीडेंटस के मामले में हम सारी दुनिया से आगे बढ़ गए है और हमारे रेलवे के ट्रैक्स, इफीशियंसी या सिग्रल्स देखिए । अब प्ली यह दी जा रही है कि सिग्रल को नही देखा ड्राइवर ने, रेल पर रेल कुदा दी । महोदया । आप अंदाज करिए । इनइफीशियंसी की हद है । एक जमाना था लाल बहादुर शास्त्री जैसे लोग थे और इनको यह शर्म नही आती कि एक क्षण को भी हम इस्तीफा दें फिर ज्वाइन कर लें । लेकिन सोचते ही नही

है । इस्तीफा देने की बात सोचते नही है । अब यह स्थिति हो गयी है कि रेलवे में किसी की गलती हो उसकी जिम्मेदारी इन्हेरेंट पावर? मिनिस्टर की है । बिजिनेस रूल्स के अंदर मिनिस्टर को इन्हेरेंट पावर होती है, वह डेलीगेट करता है इस बार रेलवे मिनिस्टर को गिरफतार किया जाना चाहिए और जितनी हत्याएं हुई हैं जितनें घायल हुए है उनका मुकदमा उन पर चलाया जाना चाहिए वरना इसके अलावा कोई जरिया नही है । क्यों? काहे के लिए? मिनिस्टर को इन्हेरेंट पावर होती है । रेलवे मिनिस्टर है, रेलवे को सारा कंट्रोल करता है । उदघाटनों में झंडी दिखाते है और उदघाटनों का पोलिटिकल मिसयूज करते है तो यह जिम्मेदारी क्यों नही ले । लोगों की जान और माल की हिफाजत कौन करेगा ।

THE MINSITER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): YJU may kindly make your observations in *he presence of the Railway Minister.

श्री शिव चरण सिंह : महोदया, रेलवे मिनिस्टर आएगा तब भी कहेंगे ।

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Please keep your powder dry. Don't exhaust it prematurely.

श्री शिव चरण सिंह : यह तो ज्वाइंट रिसपांसिबिलिटी है । रेलवे मिनिस्टर की बात को तो फेस करिए । ज्वाइंट रिसपांसिबिलिटी का जहां प्रश्न आता है आपको यह मानना चाहिए । अगर जिम्मेदारी है तो उनके बिहा फ पर आप घोषणा करिए कि आप रेलवे मंत्रालय छोड़ते है । यह करना चाहिए । **...(व्यवधान)...**

श्री त्रिलोकी नाथ चतुर्वेदी : महोदया,सर्वप्रथम मैं मृतकों के परिवार के प्रति संवेदना प्रकट करना चाहता हूँ और जिस प्रकार का रोष इस सदन में है उस प्रकार का रोष पूरे देश में व्याप्त है और उसके कारण है कि पिछले एक साल से इतनी अधिक दुर्घटनाएं इस देश में रेलवे में हुई है कि सुरक्षा की तरफ जितना ध्यान दिया जाना चाहिए उतना ध्यान नही दिया जा रहा है । इसके लिए जो तकनीकी कारणों की जांच करनी है उनके ऊपर भी कोई ध्यान नही दिया जा रहा है जैसा कि हमारे साथियों ने कहा है यह सही है कि जिस प्रकार का ध्यान हमारे मंत्री जी को देना चाहिए अपने इस विभाग की ओर से वैसा ध्यान उस तरफ नही दिया जा रहा है । महत्वपूर्ण प्रश्न की तरफ ध्यान नही है । ध्यान यह है कि हम किस प्रकार से रोज़ अखबारों की सुर्खियों में रहे, चाहे वह राजनीति के आधार पर हो, चाहे एक-एक और दो-दो पन्ने के छोटी –छोटी जगहों में छोटी-छोटी रेले चलाएं । कभी कोई फाउंडेशन स्टोन श्रीनगर में रखा जाएगा तो कभी बारामुला में रखा जाएगा । काम क्या हुआ यह पता नही । इसी तरह मेरे जिले में भी पूरे दो-दो पन्ने के केवल राजनीति के आधार के ऊपर काम कुछ नही हो रहा है और इसी वजह से आज रेलवे बोर्ड की क्षमता के ऊपर तो एक प्रश्नचिन्ह लग ही रहा है लेकिन उससे अधिक हमारे सामने सवाल यह है कि किस प्रकार से उसके ऊपर उनका नियंत्रण रहे और यदि रेलवे बोर्ड कोई गलती करता है तो उसको सुधारने का प्रयत्न हमारे रेलवे के मंत्री महोदया क्या कर रहे है? क्योंकि केवल आंकड़ों से कहने से या जो भी हमें जानकारी प्राप्त हुई है उसमें भी, फरीदाबाद कितनी दूर है, अधिकारी कब पहुंचे, मंत्री जी आप सुबह पहुंच रहे है और उसके बाद इस समय 12.30 बज रहे हैं और यह कहा जाता है कि हम शाम को आकर जवाब देंगे और खेद की बात यह है कि ऐसे संवेदनशील मंत्री श्री रेड्डी जी, वह भी यहां हसकर हमको बताते है, हंस कर हमको उपदेश देते हैं...**(व्यवधान)**... चलिए , मैं अपने उन शब्दों को वापस लेता हूं । जब रेलवे मंत्री आ जाएं तो आप उनके सामने इस प्रकार की बात करिए । आखिर हमारा रोष आप ही उनसे प्रकट कर सकते है । मैं जानता हूं कि आप संवेदनशील है और इस प्रकार के रोष से उद्धलित पहले से ही है । फिर भी इस मामले को गंभीरता से लिया जाना चाहिए । पिछले साल भी ऐसी कितनी दुर्घटनाएं हो चुकी है । तमिलनाडु की एक ट्रेन और एक कालिंदी की दुर्घटनाएं पर कितनी यहां बहस हुई थी । आखिर हम कर क्या रहे है, हम रेलवे बोर्ड की तरफ से सुरक्षा के लिए क्या सुधार कर रहे है? इसमें और भी ऐसे बहुत से मुद्दे हैं । जो हताहत हुए है उनकी कितनी संख्या है और जिनके चोट लगी है उनकी कितनी संख्या है, यह हमें अभी तक पता नही है । हमारे यहां, पर इतने राष्ट्रीय अखबार निकलते है । रेलवे बोर्ड यहां पर है । पार्लियामेंट यहां पर है । फरीदाबाद हमारे पास ही है । फिर भी क्या कारण है कि पूरी सूचना उपलब्ध नही है । मैं समझता हूं कि 11 बजे तक तो पूरी सूचना मंत्री महोदय को पार्लियामेंट के माध्यम से पूरे देश को देनी चाहिए थी । इसलिए जो मेरे साथियों ने मांग की है वह सही है कि मिनिस्टर की कंस्ट्रक्टिव रेसपांसिबिलिटी है । आखिर जब यह ट्रांसपरेंसी की दुहाई देते है, इस बात की दुहाई देते है कि हम एक एकाउंटेबिलिटी केवल रेलवे बोर्ड के ऊपर नही डाली जा सकती , नीचे के अधिकारियों के ऊपर नही डाली जा सकती । जब तक कि यह कंस्ट्रक्टिव

3^ रिसपांसिबिलिटी नीचे से ऊपर तक नही जाएगी जब तक किसी प्रकार का भी सुधार प्रशासन में नही होगा । जिस प्रकार की राजनीति इस समय चल रही है मैं सहमत हूं कि उसको देखते हुए यह अत्यन्त आवश्यक हो गया है कि केवल कंस्ट्रक्टिव रेसपांसिबिलिटी एक रेज़िमेशन तक ही नही, वैसे मैं समझता हूं कि शास्त्री जी का नाम लेकर तो आप उनके साथ ज्यादती करेंगे अगर उनका उदाहरण हम देना चाहेंगे, माधव राव सिंधिया की भी बात कहें तो वह भी बहुत उचित नही होगी, क्योंकि आज के जो मूल्य है मंत्री महोदयों के और मंत्रालय के, इस सरकार के, उस आभार पर कुछ नही हो सकता है । इसलिए मैं चाहता हूं कि जो हमारे साथी ने कहा उपहार सिनेमा की कंस्ट्रक्टिव रेसपांसिबिलिटी को उसके लॉजीकल कल्मीनेशन तक, लॉजीकल एंड तक लेना चाहिए । आखिर क्रिमिनल निग्लीजेंस किस की है? केवल एक ग्रीन सिंगल जिस ने दिया, उस की है? महोदया, अभी हमारे एक सभी ने कहा कि हरी झंडी दिखाकर फोटो खिचाने के लिए, लाखों-करोड़ों रुपए, अपने दोस्तों में बांटने के लिए हम खर्च करते है और अखबार के जरिए हम अपना राजनैतिक प्रोपेगेंडा करते है ।

उपसभापति महोदया, आप ने मुझे बोलने के लिए समय दिया, आप का बहुत-बहुत धन्यवाद । मैं चाहता हूं कि इस प्रकार के मामले में हमें एक अधिक संवेदनशील और सतर्कता बरतनी चाहिए ।

SHRI QURUBAS BAS CUPTA (West Bengal); Madam, kindly permit mi:

TUB DIPUTY CHAIRMAN; I have= some names here:

SHRI QURUBAS BAS GUPTA; I will lake one minute:

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mf= Gurudas Das Gupta, there are many Members who want to speak. They have given their names. Those Members have asked for permission to speak. I will not permit you. If 1 permit you, then, I will be infringing upon the rights of other Member whose names have been listed on other matters. As the Minister is going to make a *sua motu* statement. then you can seek clarifications. Whatever anguish or anger or whatever you want to express, you can do it at that time.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: I will complete in one sentence.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Then, so many other Members will also say that they will complete in once sentence. I am sorry. Mr, E. Balanandan. Absent. Shri Karnendu Bhattacharjee.

RE: GRAVE FLOOD SITUATION IN ASSAM

SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE (Assam): Madam Deputy Chairman, I rise to raise an important issue about the flood situation in Assam. The flood situation in Assam is very serious, Every year the floods create havoc in both the Brahmaputra and the Barak Valleys of Assam, There has been a great loss to both lives and to the standing crops this year alio, Nearly 10 to 12 lakh people have taken shelter in different camps in both the Valleys, Their sufferings are extreme. There is no relief, The relief provided is very insuffieient, The Oevern= ment at the Centre makes a let of noise about the Nerth=Iast, but when it eemes tQ doing praetieal things, the performanee is very peer, Per the last fortnight floods have been on the rampage in Assam, yet no Central Minister has found time to visit the State, nor even any team of the Central Covernment has visited.

The Brahampurtra Hoard has been set up sinct a long time but till today it is a defunet organisation with no autonomy and is unable to perform its job due to one reason of the other. And floods are recuffing every year with no concert action to check floods not only in Assam, but in other parts of the North-East, mainly in Meghalaya and other districts. li is under floods. The long-felt demand ior the Barak Dam is now in cold storage. There is no action from the Government side. There is much noise and concern expressed when such calamities afflict other States, but when it comes to the North-East, we have seen step-motherly attitude of the Government. The' need of the hour is to take both